

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE POST BACHELOR CERTIFICATE IN FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors discontinue the Post Bachelor Certificate in Forensic Investigation in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences effective winter term 2024.

Background

Enrollment in this Certificate program has been declining for the past ten years. Currently, the program enrolls an average of 1-2 students each semester. This enrollment does not justify the expense of effort involved in offering and administering the program.

Completion of the certificate program does not result in student employment in the field of forensics. While the program offers a survey of various forensic disciplines, it is not accredited or creditable by FEPAC. As a result, graduates must have graduate degrees in a forensic field or law enforcement experience to obtain employment upon program completion.

Seeking accreditation would involve a significant outlay for funding faculty positions, space, and equipment. An accredited program would be in competition with programs at Madonna University and Michigan State University. If accreditation is sought, a degree program would be needed.

Another key component of the program is internship placement. Many sites have discontinued placement due to COVID concerns and short staffing. Only the Wayne State University Public Safety Department remains a clinical site willing to take students.

An admissions moratorium is in effect and all students previously admitted to the program will complete their program by winter 2024 semester. The only full-time faculty member assigned to the program is director of another academic program and a department chair.

Program Description

The program is a post-bachelor certificate program consisting of 25-27 credits. Students typically complete the program in 4-5 consecutive semesters. There are 3 students currently enrolled. There are four part-time faculty teaching in the program. All remaining students in the program will finish Winter 2024 semester.

Approvals

The discontinuance of this Post Bachelor Certificate in Forensic Investigation was approved by the faculty of the Department of Applied Health Sciences, The Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences Division of Health Sciences Curriculum Committee, the Dean of the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences and the Provost.